

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, MASS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: ASST SECY VEST'S TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOM-
MITTEE JUNE 8

1. EUR ASST SECY VEST TESTIFIED JUNE 8 BEFORE HOUSE APPRO-
PRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS ON BUDGET
AMENDMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION'S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
PROGRAM, I.E. DOLS 50 MILLION SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSIS-
TANCE FOR TURKEY AND ADDITIONAL DOLS 18 MILLION IN FMS
CREDITS FOR GREECE. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARENCE LONG
(D-MD), REPS YATES (D-ILL), MCHUGH (D-NY) AND SMITH (R-NEB)
WERE PRESENT. GREEK EMBOFF WAS PRESENT.

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2. VEST STATEMENT REVIEWED ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL FOR
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND OFFERED BRIEF RATIONALE FOR
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS. COPIES OF STATEMENT WILL BE PROVIDED
ACTION ADDRESSEES.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONING COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF ADMIN-

ISTRATION PROGRAM FOR GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS, BUT
FOCUSED ON PROVISION OF DOLS 50 MILLION IN SSA AND REQUEST
FOR LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO. QUESTIONING, WHICH WAS
DIRECT AND AT TIMES CONTENTIOUS, CENTERED ON (A) REASONS
FOR LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION; (B) EFFECT

OF LIFTING EMBARGO ON PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS; (C) TURKISH
ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES; (D) GOT'S FAILURE TO WITHDRAW MORE
TROOPS FROM CYPRUS; AND (E) POSSIBLE REACTIONS WITHIN
GREECE AND TURKEY TO CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON EMBARGO.

4. IN REPLYING TO QUERIES, VEST STATED THAT EMBARGO HAS
IMPEDED PROGRESS TOWARD CYPRUS SOLUTION. HE NOTED THAT
GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS STATED
ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIS
APRIL 1978 TURKISH PROPOSALS, PERHAPS IN BELIEF THAT SUCH
NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE DEPICTED AS PROGRESS TOWARD CYPRUS
SOLUTION, AND MIGHT THEREFORE FACILITATE LIFTING OF THE
EMBARGO. HE CONTRASTED GOC POSITION WITH WALDHEIM'S VIEW
OF TURKISH PROPOSALS AS "CONCRETE AND SUBSTANTIVE" AND
THE FLEXIBILITY DEMONSTRATED IN DENKTASH STATEMENT OF
MAY 22. VANCE

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